

## CHAPTER 11

# THE DIRECTIVE

All operations in the Navy start from a general plan of the commander concerned. The plan may be an elaborate, detailed schedule, or it may be no more than an idea in the mind of the senior. In essence, it has only one function: to enable the subordinate commanders and commanding officers to understand the thinking and desires of their superior.

The commander informs his subordinates of his plan by issuing a directive. A directive is any communication—oral or written—that initiates or governs action, conduct, or procedure. Commonly, it denotes the written instrument by which the plan of a commander is promulgated. It may be transmitted by any communication system. Regardless of the means of promulgation, the directive invariably follows a standard form mutually understood by the commander and the recipients.

The directive usually consists of a basic plan and detailed procedures in the form of enclosures, called annexes and appendixes. In many instances the plan could be written in a simple narrative form, but studying it would be difficult, and rapid reference during the execution phase of the operation would be practically impossible. As a result, the basic plan is concise, containing only those details necessary for a clear, overall picture of the operation. The annexes may be brief or protracted, and in many cases are accompanied by appendixes and tabs to elaborate on the many details to be considered in a large and complicated tactical problem.

### TYPES OF DIRECTIVES

Common understandings among the individual services and, in combined operations, among Allied nations involved, are basic to successful combat. The form of the directive is designed to reduce to a minimum the areas of possible misunderstandings. Ideally, all subordinates, regardless of service or nationality, will interpret common instructions the same way.

Several different types of directives are in common use by the Navy. Each is designed for a specific purpose, and most are prepared in accordance with a standard approved format set forth in NWP 11, Naval Operational Planning.

### WARNING ORDER

A warning order may be issued to alert subordinate commands to impending operations. It is a preliminary notice of an order or action that is to follow. Subordinates are expected to use the time thus gained to make preliminary plans and preparations.

### LETTER OF INSTRUCTION

A letter of instruction (or letter directive), issued for planning purposes, usually is a directive to major commanders of participating forces, although other interested commands may receive copies for information.

Normally, the letter states the concept, mission, command relationships, areas of responsibilities and operations, and special instructions regarding communications, forces, and reports. The letter also may promulgate policy guidance of an operational nature.

### CAMPAIGN PLAN

A senior commander promulgates a campaign plan to express his decision in terms of specific operations projected as far into the future as possible. The campaign plan is the next step after a long-range or strategic estimate of the situation wherein the commander decides on the line or lines of action to be followed. The purpose of this plan is to make known an orderly schedule of the strategic decisions made by the commander in order to allow sufficient time for subordinates to procure and provide the means for attaining the desired or assigned objectives.

## OUTLINE PLAN

When a decision is made to carry out a specific operation, time limitations usually demand concurrent planning by the responsible senior commanders. In order to facilitate such planning by commanders who may be widely dispersed geographically, an outline plan is issued.

The outline plan is a preliminary general sketch of a plan portraying the salient features that will govern the complete plan. The term "outline" indicates only the degree of completeness of a plan; it may be an outline campaign plan, an outline operation plan, an outline logistic plan, or an outline base development plan. Usually it follows the format of the type of plan it summarizes.

Although the outline plan is more comprehensive than a simple listing of essential elements, it is less comprehensive than a completed plan. It is employed most frequently by commanders to test a concept in general form before detailed planning is initiated. The outline may be used by subordinate commanders to initiate concurrent planning for complex or extended operations.

## CONTINGENCY PLAN

The contingency plan is an outline course of action to be adopted, stating tasks to be undertaken and listing the forces to be utilized, should an anticipated event take place. The purpose of this plan is to accelerate the actions a commander can take to meet a foreseen contingency.

## OPERATION PLAN

An operation plan generally is designed for operations extending over a large geographical area and usually covering a considerable period of time. It may be based upon, and therefore restricted by, various appropriate assumptions. (Assumptions are included when data essential to the preparation of the plan are missing.) The OpPlan is prepared well in advance of the impending operation. Information telling when the plan will become effective may be included in the plan, or the latter may state merely that it will become effective on signal. The OpPlan is the instrument upon which subordinate commanders base directives to their commands covering the specific tasks assigned.

## OPERATION ORDER

The operation order, prepared in a prescribed form similar in most respects to the operation plan, is issued by a commander to his subordinates to effect coordinated execution of a specific operation; that is, it directs the carrying out of the operation. No assumptions are included and, unless otherwise stated, the OpOrder is effective from the time and date signed. An operation order usually is not issued if an operation plan containing all the necessary details was promulgated.

This chapter is concerned mainly with the operation order. The reason for this is that, although there are variations in the contents of the various forms of directives, all types have basic similarities, and a detailed examination of the type encountered most frequently should suffice.

To bring closer the distinction between an operation plan and an operation order, let us assume that the Commander Fifth Fleet is assigned the mission of neutralizing the enemy-held island of Bolo. The Fleet Commander issues an OpPlan to all participating forces. He spells out in a general way the various tasks assigned, and in his various annexes defines his concept of the way the various groups are expected to operate in support of the landings. The directive, for example, to Commander Carrier Strike Force is general in nature, giving wide latitude to that commander regarding the detailed way in which he is to carry out his mission. The Fifth Fleet Commander's directive is an operation plan because it (1) includes operations covering a considerable area and period of time, and (2) is prepared well in advance of the operation.

Based upon the higher directive, Commander Strike Carrier Force issues an operation order to his command, as do each of the other subordinate task force commanders. Here are spelled out the details of how that particular force is to conduct its operations. The schedule of airstrikes is promulgated and maneuvering instructions are issued. Communication instructions peculiar to that force are delineated. Upon receipt of the OpOrder, the next subordinate echelon of commanders studies and (where necessary) issues supporting OpOrders to their commands. One such subordinate might be the screen commander who issues screening instructions, elaborates on the anti-submarine warfare instructions in the higher

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directives, and (where feasible) assigns specific screen stations to ships.

The subordinate commander's directives are operation orders because they are issued for the purpose of effecting the coordinated execution of specific operations, each one being the mission assigned to the task force by the fleet commander.

The communication officer should be aware of all OpPlans and OpOrders that affect his unit, because he is responsible for ensuring that equipment, facilities, and the like are available if a directive is placed into effect. He also must have detailed knowledge of the organizations involved.

### ARMED FORCES OPERATION ORDER

Essentially, an operation order (and, incidentally, an OpPlan) consists of three parts: the heading, the body, and the ending.

#### HEADING

Figure 11-1 shows a basic (abbreviated) OpOrder issued by a task group commander for a forthcoming exercise. The heading of the OpOrder consists of all items from the security classification down through the time zone to be employed in conducting the operation.

Directly beneath the centered classification appears a statement of the changes in verbal orders, if any. When there are changes in verbal orders, a statement such as "No change in verbal orders except in paragraph " might be used.

The third item of the heading, when used, is the copy number of the OpOrder, employed for the purpose of accountability. When only Navy forces are used in the operation and the order is classified no higher than Confidential, copy numbers are not required.

Items 4 through 9 consist of the issuing headquarters title (preceded, in this illustrative case, by "Fourth Fleet" to ensure proper identification); the name of the flagship or, if ashore, the headquarters; the geographic location of the issuing commander (if at sea, indicated by latitude and longitude); DTG of the signature (this is the date and time at which the order is effective unless stated to the contrary in the body of the order); and the message reference number. The last is the originator's serial number for identification. It contains no indication that it is associated with the order;

this is so that recipients of the OpOrder may use the number to acknowledge receipt in the clear.

The remainder of the heading consists of the type of directive, the short administrative title of the originator, the serial number, appropriate references, and the time zone to be used in conducting the operation. When more than one service is involved, the type of directive is amplified by descriptive words, such as Joint Army/Navy Operation Order. The references in the heading should not duplicate those referred to in the body of the order.

#### BODY

The body of the directive contains the task organization, five numbered paragraphs, and acknowledgment instructions.

The task organization is a list of the subdivisions into which the commander has organized his force for conducting the operation covered by the OpOrder. Many factors may influence the assignment of elements to particular subdivisions. Special characteristics, speed and endurance limitations, state of readiness, and current employment are among the main considerations. Existing organizations, such as squadrons and divisions, are maintained intact when possible. A large operation may require a complex chain of command to ensure adequate control. In our illustration, the group commander provides the command structure simply by designating a subordinate to command each subdivision of the task organization. When an individual ship is assigned several different tasks to perform during various phases of an operation, the ship is listed under each appropriate subheading of the organization.

All paragraphs and subparagraphs are identified and given headings.

In paragraph 1, the commander sets forth only so much of the general situation as will enable his subordinates to understand the background for the planned operation. The information given is brief and to the point; such data as a history of preceding events or detailed items of common knowledge are not included. This paragraph contains three subparagraphs— a, b, and c. No subparagraph may be omitted or left blank, although such entries as "See annex," or "Nil" (no information to enter) are permissible. Subparagraph a reflects the best intelligence estimate of the forces the enemy

# NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS

## CLASSIFICATION

No changes from verbal orders

Fourth Fleet  
TG 47.5 and ComDesRon 20  
BARRY (DD 933), Flagship  
Newport, Rhode Island  
DTG 311200R, October 196\_  
Message Ref: 052/6\_

### Operation Order

ComDesRon 20 No. 52-6\_

Reference: (a) NWP 11(A)

Time Zone: Use time zone plus 5 (RIMEO) for operations.

### Task Organization:

- |           |   |                          |
|-----------|---|--------------------------|
| a. 47.5.3 | Heavy Unit<br>ALLAGASH (AO 97)                        | CAPT E. C. ROMAN<br>1 AO |
| b. 47.5.4 | Screen Unit<br>DesRon 20 less<br>FISKE (DDR 842)      | CAPT R. M. PYLE<br>7 DD  |
| c. 47.5.5 | Air Defense,<br>Coordination Unit<br>HAILEY (DDR 836) | CDR W. C. MACE<br>1 DIR  |
1. SITUATION. ComCruDesLant Notice 03360 of 16 Sep 196\_ scheduled an opposed ASW/AAW coordination sortie on 4 Nov with ComDesRon 20 as OCE and OTC. This OpOrder covers the conduct of the sortie.
    - a. Enemy Forces: None.
    - b. Friendly Forces: Land-based aircraft for ASW search and air strikes.
    - c. Attachments and Detachments: None.
  2. MISSION. On 4 Nov 196\_ conduct a combined opposed ASW/AAW coordinated sortie exercise from Narragansett Bay in order to train assigned units in ASW/AAW coordination.
  3. EXECUTION. This force will conduct a combined opposed ASW/AAW coordination sortie exercise from Narragansett Bay on 4 Nov 196\_.
    - a. Heavy Unit--Sortie in accordance with Annexes A and D.
    - b. Screen Unit--Sortie in accordance with Annexes A and D and protect heavy unit from submarine and air attack.
    - c. AAW Coordination Unit--Coordinate air defense of the sortie group in accordance with Annexes E and G.

## CLASSIFICATION

Figure 11-1. --A basic operation order.

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x. Coordinating Instructions.

- (1) This operation order is effective for planning on receipt and for operations commencing 4 Nov 196\_.
- (2) Search and rescue in accordance with CINCLANTFLT OpOrder 1-6\_, NWP 37, NWIP 23-6, and Annex H. Submarine search and rescue plan in accordance with COMSUBLANT OpPlan 4-6\_ (SUBMISS/SUBSUNK) and Annex H.

4. ADMINISTRATION and LOGISTICS. Submit reports in accordance with NWIP 10-1.

5. COMMAND and SIGNAL.

- a. Communications in accordance with Annex C.
- b. Commander Destroyer Squadron TWENTY in Barry (DD 933) is OCE and OTC.
- c. Commander Destroyer Squadron TEN in SHERMAN second in command.

Acknowledgment Instructions:

Units listed in Task Organization acknowledge receipt of this directive by message using message reference number.

*R. M. Pyle*

R. M. PYLE  
Captain, U. S. Navy  
Commander Task Group 47.5 and  
Commander Destroyer Squadron TWENTY

ANNEXES:

A--Time Schedule  
C--Communications

Appendix I-- Frequency Plan  
Appendix II-- Aircraft Communications  
Appendix III--Call Signs  
Appendix IV-- ASW Circuits

D--Antisubmarine Warfare Plan  
E--Air Strike Plan  
F--Friendly Air Schedule  
G--Anti-Air Warfare Plan

Appendix I-- Picket, CAP, and Strike Control Assignments  
Appendix II--AAW Coordination Plan

Z--Distribution

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LT, U. S. Navy  
Staff Secretary

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has available; if none (as in peacetime), that is so stated. Subparagraph b, friendly forces, refers only to forces not listed in the task organization. Information on friendly forces should be brief and restricted to that required for proper coordination of operation. Subparagraph c lists any forces that will join or be detached from the force as the operation progresses.

Paragraph 2, the mission, may either have been assigned by higher authority or deduced from his instructions. In effect, paragraph 2 contains the most important information in the directive, and often is the first item to be read by a subordinate upon receipt of the document. The mission has two parts, the task to be accomplished and the purpose for accomplishing it, separated by the phrase "in order to." No other place in the operation order gives such a concise statement of the intent of the operation.

Paragraph 3, the execution paragraph, opens with the words "This force will." It then sets forth exactly what the overall organization is to accomplish. In succeeding subparagraphs, tasks assigned to the elements of the organization are prescribed in detail. In order to avoid repetition, paragraph 3 always contains a subparagraph x, titled "Coordinating Instructions," that embodies general instructions of an operational nature common to two or more task subdivisions. Here are listed common items of information, as well as instructions relating to security, cooperation, duration of events, and the like. If the directive is to become effective at another time or date than the DTG in the heading, it is so stated in paragraph 3.x. Wherever possible, the language of paragraph 3 allows subordinates some latitude in exercising individual initiative.

Paragraph 4, administration and logistics, contains the necessary administrative and logistical arrangements for accomplishing the mission. It explains what supplies, facilities, and services are available; who is responsible for providing them; and how, when, and where they will be furnished. As in the other paragraphs of the basic plan, it is permissible to refer to a logistics annex if one is appended or, as often happens in comparatively small local training operations, simply to existing instructions.

Paragraph 5 is the command and signal area. Signal, as used here, means communications. In this paragraph all special features of command are set forth, including designation of the

officer second in command; locations of the commander and his second in command; division of responsibility among the various commanders; and the communication plan, or more usually, a reference to the communication annex. A complete communication annex and one or more appendixes are necessary—even for routine operations—down to the division level of destroyer operations, because the area of communications is so vital.

When necessary, acknowledgment instructions are included following paragraph 5. A commander interprets a received acknowledgment to mean that the directive was received and is understood.

## ENDING

The ending of the directive consists of the signature of the originator, a list of annexes, the distribution, signature of the authenticating officer (if required), and the classification. (The security classification appears on the top and bottom of every page of the directive.)

The signature of the commander is required to make the directive effective. It appears below the acknowledgment instructions, to the right of center page, over his rank and command title. For OpOrders and OpPlans concerning only U. S. Navy units, the operational and administrative titles may be added as they appear in figure 11-1. The commander may sign the original copy of the directive, or he may sign the stencil or mat so that his signature is reproduced on all copies. In the former method, distributed copies are authenticated by the flag or staff secretary. When annexes, appendixes, and tabs are issued with the order, the signature on these supplementary parts is optional. When they are issued separately, signatures are required.

Immediately below and to the left of the signature are listed the appended annexes, designated by capital letters. Although not required, it is good practice to refer to each annex in the body of the directive. Appendixes and tabs to the various annexes also are included in the list. The content of annexes of most concern to the communication officer are discussed in following sections. It is general practice, though not stipulated by doctrine, to designate the communication annex as annex C and the distribution annex (of any) as annex Z.

Below the list of annexes appears the distribution list. Two practices are common: For

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comparatively short distribution lists, each addressee is listed as part of the basic plan; for longer lists (this usually is true in all but the simplest directives), the distribution list may be a separate annex, as in figure 11-2. It is appropriate to include collective units in the list, but mailing time can be saved by listing individual administrative units separately. The number of copies each addressee is to receive should be indicated; and, if some are to receive all but certain portions, the deleted part should be so indicated. Administrative titles should be used vice tactical titles, which could serve to compromise the directive (by revealing the task organization) as well as cause mailing delays. Preparation of the distribution list is important and requires considerable thought and effort. If all commands that need to know do not receive copies, the entire operation can be reduced in effectiveness or be damaged irreparably.

#### ANNEXES, APPENDIXES, AND TABS

Any portion of a directive that is too extensive or detailed for inclusion in the basic order may be placed in an annex. Among the many subjects that may properly be discussed in annexes are battle plans, search and rescue procedures, communications, logistics, intelligence, anti-air warfare, and antisubmarine warfare, to name but a few. Amplifying information not appropriate for inclusion in an annex may be prepared as an appendix to that annex. Further, information amplifying an appendix may be prepared as a tab to that appendix. Each annex, appendix, and tab is given a title descriptive of its contents. Appendixes are listed at the end of the annex to which they pertain, and tabs are listed at the end of their governing appendixes.

Annexes are designated by capital letters, appendixes by Roman numerals, and tabs again by capital letters. Thus, a tab might be referred to as tab C to appendix II to annex W; and the first page number of the tab appears as W-II-C-1. Pages of the basic directive are numbered serially starting with 1, but these page numbers are not carried over to the amplifying instructions.

No prescribed format exists for the body of an annex. When issued separately, the heading and ending of each annex, appendix, and tab are identical to the basic directive. When issued with the basic order or plan, only the type

directive, the short administrative title of the originator, and the serial number of the directive need be shown in the heading. In practice—although not required—the heading usually follows the form of the basic OpOrder.

#### COMMUNICATION ANNEX

In conjunction with paragraph 5 of the basic order, annex C (fig. 11-3) probably is the most important part of any operation plan or order as regards the shipboard communication officer. The communication annex, in addition to its main purpose of amplifying paragraph 5, may actually be the operation order for the communication unit of an individual command.

NWP 16(A) contains the basic communication doctrine for naval operations. The numbering of paragraphs in the communication annex follows the numbering of related matters in NWP 16(A). Each paragraph of annex C indicates how the correspondingly numbered paragraph of NWP 16(A) is to be amplified or modified.

In the communication annex for a combined operation, generally no reference is made to NWP 16(A), because not all Allied nations have access to the same publications and/or NWP 16(A).

The communication plan, or annex, must be sufficiently detailed to prevent misunderstanding, but duplication of material contained in the superior's directives are kept to a minimum. Unnecessary repetition burdens individual ships with instructions which are not needed for the operation and which tend to subordinate portions of the plan that may be important.

Radio checks are for the purpose of determining whether the available equipments are in all respects ready for the operation. If defects materialize, there is time to locate them and correct the trouble. When annex C includes instructions on conducting preoperational radio checks, preparations are to be made beforehand. Individual units should have the proper frequencies set and be ready for the checks well before the scheduled time. Ideally, all units should check out perfectly the first time around.

#### Appendixes to Annex C

Figure 11-4 is appendix I (in this instance the frequency plan to be employed) to the

NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS

CLASSIFICATION

Operation Order  
ComDesRon 20 No. 52-6-

Fourth Fleet  
TG 47.5 and ComDesRon 20  
BARRY (DD 933), Flagship  
Newport, Rhode Island  
DTG 311200R, October 196-  
Message Ref: 052/6-

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ANNEX Z

Distribution

232.

Number of copies

CNO	10
CINCLANTFLT	10
COMAIRLANT	2
COMSUBLANT	2
COMCRUDESANT	2
PRES NAVWARCOL	2
COMONE	1
COMNAVBASE NPT	2
COMCRUDESFLOT TWO	2
COMDESRON 8	3 (less Appendix I to Annex ECHO)
COMDESDIV 202	1 (less Appendix I to Annex ECHO)
USS BARRY	3 (less Appendix I to Annex ECHO)
USS MILLER	3
USS HAILEY	3
USS ROOKS	3
USS McNAIR	3
USS DECATUR	3
USS FISKE	5 (less Appendix I to Annex ECHO)
USS DONALY	3
USS ALLAGASH	3
VU-2	5

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R. M. PYLE  
Captain, U. S. Navy  
Commander Task Group 47.5 and  
Commander Destroyer Squadron TWENTY

Authenticated:

H. P. ROLFE  
LT, U. S. Navy  
Staff Secretary

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Figure 11-2. -Distribution list as an annex.



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Fourth Fleet  
TG 47.5 and ComDesRon 20  
BARRY (DD 933), Flagship  
Newport, Rhode Island  
DTG 311200R, October 196\_\_  
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Operation Order  
ComDesRon 20 No. 52-6\_\_

ANNEX C

Communications

232. Effectiveness

1. Communications in accordance with the effective edition of NWP 16(A), and appropriate Joint, Allied and Navy Department Publications. NWP 16(A) is effective throughout as applicable to the existing situation unless modified or amplified by this Annex. The numbering of paragraphs herein follows the numbering of related matter in NWP 16. The interpretation as to the applicability of a specific article is a function of the command concerned.

411. Call Signs and Address Groups

1. The call signs for CTG 47.5 and TG 47.5 are effective for use commencing 040600R.

619. Radio Checks

1. Radio checks will be conducted at 020800R, 031500R, and 040700R on circuits 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 9 in accordance with Appendix 1 to this Annex.

619. Frequency Plan

1. Radiofrequency plan is contained in Appendix I to this Annex.
2. Aircraft frequencies and AN/ARC-27 channelization are contained in Appendix II.

812. Distress

1. Distress guards are assigned in Appendix I to this Annex.

R. M. PYLE  
Captain, U. S. Navy  
Commander Task Group 47.5 and  
Commander Destroyer Squadron TWENTY

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H. P. ROLFE  
LT, U. S. Navy  
Staff Secretary

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Figure 11-3. —Communication annex.

# NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS

## CLASSIFICATION

Fourth Fleet  
TG 47.5 and ComDesRon 20  
BARRY (DD 933), Flagship  
Newport, Rhode Island  
DTG 311200R, October 196  
Message Ref: 052/6

Operation Order  
ComDesRon 20 No. 52-6

## APPENDIX I TO ANNEX C

### FREQUENCY PLAN

Circuit	Use	Desig.	Freq.	Emission	CTG	Screen	Main body	AAW	Picket	Remarks
1	TG M & WP (PRITAC)	C3.5A	318.6	V	N	X	X	X	X	Pickets may secure when in station.
2	ASW surface-air common	C3.7B	324.1	V	N	X	X	X	X	
3	TG CIC (P) (PRI CI)	C3.5F	345.8	V	N	X	X	X	X	
4 5 6	SAU A PRITAC SAU B PRITAC SAU C PRITAC	C3.15D C2.20L C3.5D	283.4 389.8 315.2	V		X				See Appendix IV.
7	TG Common	C3.5C	442	CW	N	L	L	L	L	Alt Air Safety Net, if required.
8 9 10	SAU A CI SAU B CI SAU C CI	C3.14A C3.14D C3.14J	148.68 134.46 158.04	V		X				See Appendix IV.

X - Guard  
N - Net Control  
L - Listen

R. M. PYLE  
Captain, U. S. Navy  
Commander Task Group 47.5 and  
Commander Destroyer Squadron TWENTY

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H. P. ROLFE  
LT, U. S. Navy  
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Figure 11-4. — Frequency plan appendix.

communication annex of the operation order under discussion.

The various columns in figure 11-4 define the circuits, their uses, designations, frequencies, whether voice or CW emissions, and which subdivisions of the task organization are required to guard or listen on each. Detailed study of this appendix by the communication officer in conjunction with the operations officer, CIC officer, missile officer, ASW officer, and senior radiomen is necessary. After a decision is made on the logical employment of available equipment, a detailed plan is submitted to the commanding officer for approval. Only a limited amount of equipment in each frequency range is installed in each participating ship.

Appendixes II and III to annex C list the frequencies to be used for aircraft communications and both international and voice call signs, respectively. Appendix IV contains amplifying instructions pertaining to ASW communications. The communication officer ensures that the various stations (e.g., radio central, bridge, CIC) have appropriate excerpts posted conspicuously for ready reference.

## MESSAGE OPORDER

When speed is important, an OpOrder may be prepared in message form and disseminated by rapid communications. The necessity for speed may be the result of unexpected wartime developments; or, in peacetime, to supplement the standing OpOrder of an organized force. For instance, a hunter/killer training force may be organized. The force commander undoubtedly will have a standing OpOrder covering the many ramifications of this type of operation, and merely issue an amplifying order in message form to effect a particular operation of limited duration and scope. This method of promulgation is desirable in that it allows all personnel to become familiar with the commander's general desires over a period of time, and reduces the administrative workload of the staff in preparing new orders. A standing OpOrder naturally is infeasible for carrying out such a specialized operation as the capture of a particular enemy stronghold.

As shown in figure 11-5, only essentials are included in a message operation order. The commander issuing the order depends upon the experience and knowledge of his subordinate commanders to ensure the effective execution of his plan.

FROM: CTF 21  
 TO: TF 21  
 INFO: COMPHIBLANT/COMSECFLT/CINCLANTFLT/CNO  
 SECURITY CLASSIFICATION  
 COMCARDIV TWO OPORD 12-6  
 USE OPERATIONS TIME ZONE PLUS TWO  
 A. COMSECFLT LTR OF INST 0036-6

1. SIT ALLIED SHIPPING SUFFERING HEAVY LOSSES FROM ENEMY SUBS AND AIRCRAFT OPERATING FROM XRAY AND ZULU ISLANDS. CINCLANTFLT HAS DIRECTED CAPTURE OF ZULU ISLAND. ENEMY FORCE CONSISTING OF CARRIERS, CRUISERS AND DESTROYERS, OBSERVED 1 MAY LAT 35 DEGREES NORTH LONG 20 DEGREES WEST. BEGINNING D-DAY JOINT AMPHIBIOUS TASK FORCE WILL CAPTURE ZULU ISLAND BY AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT. LAND BASED AIR WILL CONDUCT LONG RANGE SEARCH OF AREA OF OPERATIONS.
2. MISSION BEGINNING D MINUS FIVE DAY NEUTRALIZE ENEMY NAVAL AND AIR FORCES BASED AT XRAY ISLAND IN ORDER ASSIST CAPTURE ZULU ISLAND.
3. EXECUTION THIS FORCE WILL BEGINNING D MINUS FIVE DAY DESTROY ENEMY NAVAL AND AIR BASE FACILITIES ON XRAY ISLAND AND FORCES BASED THEREON BY AIR AND SURFACE ACTION.
  - A. TG 21.1 ATTACK CARRIER STRIKING GROUP COMCARDIV TWO CARDIV 2 CARDIV 10 DESRON 4. DESTROY ENEMY AIR AND SURFACE FORCES, AIR BASE FACILITIES ON XRAY ISLAND. PROTECT BOMBARDMENT GROUP FROM ENEMY AIRCRAFT.
  - B. TG 21.2 BOMBARDMENT GROUP COMCRUDIV TWO CRUDIV 2 DESRON 6 DESRON 8. DESTROY NAVAL BASES AND COAST DEFENSES ON XRAY ISLAND. PROTECT CARRIER GROUPS FROM ENEMY SURFACE FORCES.
  - X. D-DAY IS DAY OF MAIN TROOP LANDING ZULU ISLAND TENTATIVELY TWENTY MAY. PROVIDE GUNFIRE AND AIR SUPPORT FOR JATF WHEN DIRECTED BY CTF 21.
4. ADMIN LOGISTICS REFUEL AND REPLENISH FROM UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT FORCE AREA HEMLOCK.
5. COMMAND USE SECFLT COMPLAN SIX. COMMANDER BOMBARDMENT FTOUN IN BOSTON SECOND IN COMMAND. COMMANDER STRIKING FORCE OTC IN MIDWAY. END OPORD.
6. ANNEXES ALFA CONCEPT OF OPS ECHO CRUINS FORWARDED LATER TG ACTION ADDEES BY GUARD MAIL.

Note 1: The Task Organization is omitted from the beginning of the Message Plan; it is included in the task paragraph instead. It is only included, however, when the addressees of the message do not have the task organization information, or when there is a change in the organization. If the current organization has remained unchanged, the name of the commanders and their units may be omitted.

Figure 11-5. —OpOrder promulgated by message.